

**2016 United States Senate Youth Scholarship (USSYP)**

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**Registration:** Students may register only by contacting their high school or home school association's United States Senate Youth Scholarship (USSYP) Coordinator. Each school will have only one designated USSYP coordinator appointed by the school principal or association. Registration is available from **September 1, 2015** to **September 30, 2015, 4:30 p.m.**

**What is the USSYP scholarship:** In 1962, the United States Senate voted unanimously to endorse a nationwide youth program for high school students, currently serving in elected student body offices and experiencing their first responsibilities of service to a constituency, to encourage and deepen their interest in and understanding of the United States Senate and the federal government's political process. The William Randolph Hearst Foundation sponsors the funding for this program.

**What does the program include:** The USSYP offers two student leaders from each state the opportunity to spend a week in Washington, D.C., for a brief on-site introduction to the functions of the federal government, and in particular, the United States Senate. Delegates hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials for the Departments of State and Defense, and directors of federal agencies. They are also allowed to participate in a meeting with a Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court.

**When does the program begin?**

By **September 1, 2015**, information is disseminated by the SC Department of Education to public, private, charter and home school associations. Eligible students **can only** register by contacting their school's USSYP coordinator. The deadline for designated USSYP counselors to submit their student's on-line applications for this scholarship competition to the SDE is **Thursday, September 30, 2015**. Late applications will not be accepted.

**How will students be recognized?**

The Hearst Foundation provides an all-expense-paid trip for South Carolina's two delegates to Washington, D.C during the fifty-second annual Washington Week, scheduled for **March 5-12, 2016**. South Carolina's chosen two delegates will receive each a \$5,000 scholarship at the end of Washington Week.

**How to Qualify:**

Two student delegates and a first and second alternate will be selected from each state and the District of Columbia by the Chief State School Officer in each state. The Hearst Foundations will provide \$1,000 to each state-level department of education to assist with the selection expenses for the program. A rigorous public affairs exam is provided for the states to use in the election process. Alternate delegates will be selected as replacements in the event a primary delegate is unable to participate in Washington Week. If the primary delegate is unable to attend, The Hearst Foundations must be notified in advance.

**Attendance during the Washington Week program is required to receive the financial scholarship;** appropriate disposition of scholarship funds will be determined by the program director in the event of health or other emergency in the immediate family precluding attendance at program.

Selection will be based on the student's outstanding abilities and demonstrated qualities of leadership. Students must be **currently serving** in at least one elected or appointed high school student office or an elected or appointed position serving a constituency in an approved educational or civic organization for the 2015-16 school year. ***A student who graduates high school at the close of the fall 2015 semester/quarter is not eligible to apply for the program.***

1. Any high school junior or senior student is eligible for the program provided he or she has not previously been a delegate to Washington Week and has not received a USSYP scholarship. The student is required to be currently serving in an elected or appointed capacity in any one of the following student government, civic or educational organizations:
  - A. Class President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer
  - B. Student Body President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer
  - C. Student Council Representative
  - D. Student representative elected or appointed (appointed by a panel, commission or board) to a district, regional or state-level civic and/or educational organization approved by the state selection administrator.
2. Each student must be a PERMANENT RESIDENT of the United States and currently enrolled in a public or private secondary school located in the state (including for these purposes the District of Columbia) in which either one of his or her parents or guardians legally resides. A student attending a school which is located in a state other than the state of legal residence of either one of such student's parents or guardians is not eligible.

Exceptions to the permanent residency requirement will only be made in the following cases:

1. Students from Department of Defense Education Activity will represent the state(s) of which the parents/guardians are U.S. legal voting residents. Students attending DOD schools in the U.S. or students enrolled through U.S. military bases in the local schools will represent the state in which their school is located.
2. Interstate Compacts (by Congressional mandate) presently exist between New Hampshire-Maine and New Hampshire-Vermont, authorizing school districts to legally cross state borders. Students in these schools are eligible to make an application for this program only through the states where the schools are located.

**For additional USSYP scholarship rules, click on the following link:**

**<http://ussenateyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2016-USSYP-Brochure.pdf>**